

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 668
By Bunch

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Tom Rowland, Mayor of Cleveland, for his meritorious service to the people of the State of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is the great pleasure of this General Assembly to honor and commend those individuals who, through their commitment to public service, have improved the lives of countless citizens of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Tom Rowland is one such estimable public servant, having devoted the last 12 years of his life to the people of Cleveland as the Mayor of that fair city; and

WHEREAS, a highly decorated and respected journalist who was honored as Tennessee Broadcaster of the Year, Tom Rowland was first elected Mayor of Cleveland in 1991; and

WHEREAS, while serving as Mayor of Cleveland, Mr. Rowland has been responsible for countless improvements and continued growth; and

WHEREAS, during his outstanding mayoral tenure, he has founded Cleveland 100, a nonprofit organization that helps families of emergency responders killed in action, and

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established a memorial wall that bears the names of emergency service personnel who lost their lives in the line of duty; established a greenway system and a new history museum and cultural center; transformed Cleveland into a Governor's 3-Star Community; increased retail development in the southern part of the city, and helped bring the 1996 International White Water Olympics to Southeast Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, an avid conservationist and environmentalist, Mayor Rowland has been active in the fight for the replacement of the Chickamauga Lock on the Tennessee River and is actively involved in a master plan to revitalize the downtown Cleveland area; and

WHEREAS, always striving to give back to his community, Mr. Rowland is actively involved with several charities and fundraising events, including Special Olympics, Veterans and Memorial Day services, and the March of Dimes; he co-founded the Empty Stocking Fund with his wife, Sandra, and was one of the first to sign up with Secretary of State Colin Powell for America's Promises; and

WHEREAS, always seeking to remain in touch with his constituents, Mayor Rowland writes a weekly newspaper column, "Our City," for the local newspaper; and

WHEREAS, actively involved in all aspects of public service, Mayor Rowland is a member and officer of several organizations and activities related to local government, including the Tennessee Municipal League, which he presently serves as President; the U.S. Conference of Mayors; the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, which he currently serves as Vice Chair; the Tennessee Homeland Security Council; the Tennessee Rail Commission; Mainstreet Cleveland; United Way of Bradley County; the Board of Public Utilities; the Cleveland-Bradley County Chamber of Commerce; the Cleveland-Bradley 911 Board of Directors; the Cleveland-Bradley Metropolitan Planning Organization; the Economic Development Council; Keep America Beautiful; and the Emergency Shelter; he also serves as the East Tennessee Director of the Association of Tennessee Valley Governments; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, Mayor Rowland has won many commendations; he has received the Service to Mankind Award from the Sertoma Club, was named Volunteer of the Decade by Keep America Beautiful, was inducted into the Bradley County Sports Hall of Fame, received the first-ever Excellence in Communication Award from the Cleveland Media Association, was named Elk of the Year by the Cleveland Elk's Lodge, holds a lifetime membership in the American Legion, was named Government Leader of the Year by the Vietnam Veterans of America, received the Campaign Leader Award from United Way of Bradley County, won the National Best Practices Award for establishing a Youth Summit, and received a Meritorious Service Award from the Veterans of Foreign Wars; and

WHEREAS, an ardent patriot and servant of his country, Mr. Rowland is a veteran of the United States Air Force, the Air National Guard, and the Tennessee State Guard, from which he retired in 1997 as a Colonel; and

WHEREAS, a deeply spiritual and devout man, Mr. Rowland is an active member of Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church where he serves as the Usher Captain; and

WHEREAS, community leaders such as Tom Rowland set an excellent example that all Tennesseans would do well to follow, and he is truly the epitome of the model Tennessean; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Tom Rowland for his honorable and astute service as Mayor of Cleveland, salute his dedication to public service and community improvement, and wish him the best in all his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.